

REMARKS

Claims 10-22 were previously pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 16, 17, 20 and 22 are amended, claims 23-27 are added, and claims 10-15, 18, 19, and 21 remain unchanged. Claims 10-27 are now pending in the application.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(e)(5), alleging that the drawings show reference numeral 26, and that reference numeral 26 is not explained in the specification.

The undersigned has carefully reviewed the drawing figures and has found no instance where reference numeral 26 is used. It is noted, however, that the legend "ERSATZBLATT (REGEL 26)" appears at the bottom of each of the sheets of drawing figures. The drawings of this application were taken from the corresponding PCT application, which was originally filed in Germany. This German language legend indicates that the drawings are replacement pages submitted under Article 26. If necessary, Applicant will submit replacement drawing figures which do not include this legend.

The Office Action objected to the specification on various grounds. Enclosed herewith is a Substitute Specification along with a mark up of the original specification to show the changes that have been made. Entry of the Substitute Specification and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Office Action objected to claim 22 because it apparently depended from the wrong independent claim. By this Amendment, the dependency of claim 22 has been corrected. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. CLAIMS 10 AND 11 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herr (U.S. Patent No. 6,026,592), in view of Kretchman (U.S. Patent No. 4,908,959). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Herr reference is directed to a laundry dryer which includes a drying basket which can be mounted inside the rotating drum of the dryer. The rotating portion of the Herr dryer is merely an exterior cylinder 20. The rear wall of the dryer 24 does not rotate. Further, the front wall of the dryer 22 does not rotate. For this reason, it is possible for the depending legs 26, 28 at the four corners of the basket assembly 16 to rest upon the rear wall and front wall of the dryer. Because the front and rear legs of the basket assembly do not rest upon the rotating drum, it is possible to operate the dryer with the drum rotating, while the basket is mounted within the drum.

In contrast, the Kretchman reference is directed to a dryer having a drying platform which is mounted within the drum in a cantilevered fashion. In the Kretchman dryer, a lint filter would normally be mounted within a slot formed on the lower front wall of the dryer. In order to use the drying platform disclosed in Kretchman, it is necessary to remove the lint filter. The drying platform is then inserted into the dryer such that a slide member 60 formed on a front side of the drying platform is inserted down into the slot which would normally receive the lint filter. This means that it is impossible to use the lint filter at the same time the drying platform is mounted within the Kretchman dryer. In addition, the slide member extends across the entire front face of Kretchman's drying platform and basically occupies the entire interior space of the slot that would normally receive the lint filter.

The Office Action suggests that one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to selectively combine aspects of the Kretchman drying platform with the Herr drying platform to arrive at a dryer as recited in independent claim 10. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Herr drying platform and the Kretchman drying platform are two completely different types of platforms. As explained above, the Herr platform relies upon legs located at the four corners of the platform to support the platform. In contrast, Kretchman relies upon a slide member formed on a front edge of the platform which is inserted into the slot for a lint filter so that the Kretchman drying platform can be mounted within the dryer in a cantilevered fashion. It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had no motivation to combine any aspects of the slide member of the Kretchman drying platform with the Herr drying platform because the Herr drying platform does not need that type of a sliding member in order to be mounted inside the Herr dryer. Conversely, one of ordinary skill in the art would have had no motivation to modify the Kretchman drying platform to include the four legs of the Herr platform, as this would make it impossible to use that platform within the Kretchman dryer.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that it requires the impermissible use of hindsight, in view of Applicants' invention, to find any motivation for selectively combining aspects of the Herr and Kretchman drying platforms to arrive at a dryer as recited in independent claim 10.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Kretchman and Herr is improper. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 and 11 is respectfully requested.

III. CLAIMS 12 AND 13 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herr, in view of Kretchman, and further in view of Vande Haar (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,862). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As explained above, the combination of Herr and Kretchman is improper. For this reason alone, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 and 13 is respectfully requested.

In addition, claims 12 and 13 recite additional features which are also not shown or suggested by any of the references of record. Claim 12 depends from claim 10 and recites that the drying basket has two longitudinal supports and that the end plate of the dryer has two openings. Claim 12 further recites each longitudinal support engages with one of these openings.

The Herr dryer assembly does not include any type of openings in an end plate of the dryer which engage with the longitudinal supports of the Herr drying platform. In the Kretchman dryer, a single opening in the end plate of the dryer (which is intended to normally receive a lint filter) engages with the slide member of the Kretchman drying platform. However, the slide member is not one of the longitudinal supports of the Kretchman drying platform. Thus, Kretchman also fails to disclose a drying basket with two longitudinal supports which are engaged with two openings in an end plate of the dryer. The Vande Haar structure is completely different from either the Herr or Kretchman dryer assemblies. Vande Haar fails to disclose or suggest any type of drying basket which includes longitudinal supports. It is respectfully submitted that claims 12 and 13 are also allowable over the references of record for these additional reasons.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 and 13 is respectfully requested.

IV. CLAIMS 14 AND 15 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herr, in view of Kretchman, and further in view of Czech (U.S. Patent No. 4,720,925). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, the combination of Herr and Kretchman is improper. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

In addition, claims 14 and 15 recite additional features that are also not shown or suggested by the references of record. Claim 14 depends from claim

10 and further recites that a demountable lint filter is arranged in the end plate, the filter being adjacent to the opening. Claim 15 depends from claim 14 and further recites that the opening and the connecting device are covered by the lint filter. As noted above, in the Kretchman device the slide member of the Kretchman drying platform is received in the slot that would normally receive the lint filter. Accordingly, in Kretchman apparatus, it is impossible for the lint filter to cover the connecting device of the drying basket. The Herr reference also fails to disclose that any type of lint filter that would cover a connecting device of the drying basket. Although the Czech reference discloses a lint filter housing for a dryer, nothing in Czech would disclose or suggest how either the Herr or Kretchman dryers could be modified in a way that would satisfy claims 14 and 15. It is respectfully submitted that claims 14 and 15 are allowable for these additional reasons.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

V. CLAIMS 16-18 AND CLAIM 21 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claims 16-18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herr, in view of Vande Haar, and further in view of Kretchman. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As explained above, the combination of Herr and Kretchman is improper. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16-18 and 21 is respectfully requested.

In addition, claims 16-18 and 21 recite additional features which are also not shown or suggested by any of the references of record. For instance, claim 16 recites that an end plate of the dryer includes two basket openings which are disposed near opposing ends of the end plate. Claim 16 further recites a drying basket having two elongated longitudinal supports, wherein each longitudinal support includes a connecting device having a hook and a supporting section.

Claim 16 further recites that each of the basket openings on the end plate receive one of the hooks of the longitudinal supports and that each of the supporting sections of the longitudinal supports engage a surface of the end plate to support the drying basket within the rotary drum.

As noted above, the Herr, Vande Haar and Kretchman references all fail to disclose or suggest a dryer structure where two basket openings are disposed near opposing end portions of an end plate, and wherein hooks which are extensions of two elongated supports of a basket are received in the basket openings.

Claim 17 depends from claim 16 and further recites that the longitudinal support and the connecting device (which would include both the hook and the supporting section) are formed from a rigid wire member having various angled sections that are bent into a desired configuration. These features of claim 17 are also not shown or suggested by the references of record.

Independent claim 21 recites a method which includes providing a laundry dryer with an end plate disposed near a lower portion of a feed opening, the end plate including two basket openings. Claim 21 further recites providing a drying basket that includes two longitudinal supports, each longitudinal support including a connection device having a hook and a supporting section. Claim 21 further recites inserting each hook of the longitudinal supports into one of the basket openings on the end plate, with the drying basket projecting into the rotary drum. As noted above, none of the references of record disclose or suggest this type of a mounting method. It is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is also allowable for these additional reasons.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16-18 and 21 is respectfully requested.

VI. CLAMS 19, 20 AND 22 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claims 19, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herr, in view of Vande Haar, and further in view of Kretchman and Czech. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the combination of Herr and Kretchman is improper. For at least this reason, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 depends from claim 16 and is also allowable because of the additional features recited in claim 16 which are also not disclosed or suggested in the references of record. Claim 19 further recites a removable lint filter that includes an elongated upper diaphragm having a projection at each opposing end. Claim 20 recites that each projection of the upper diaphragm of the lint filter extends over one of the basket openings and restricts the hooks from being removed from the basket openings. As noted above, none of the references of record disclose this type of a structure. It is respectfully submitted that claims 19 and 20 are also allowable for these additional reasons.

Claim 22 depends from claim 21 and is allowable because of the additional features recited in claim 21 which are also not shown or suggested by the references of record. Claim 22 further recites providing a lint filter having a projection at each opposing end of an upper diaphragm, and inserting the lint filter into a recess of the end plate with each of the projections extending over one of the basket openings and restricting the hooks from being removed from the basket openings. As explained above, none of the references of record disclose or suggest these additional features.

In view of all the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19, 20 and 22 is respectfully requested.

VII. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 10-27 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Howard', is written over the printed name.

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DRYING BASKET AND FASTENING DEVICE FOR A DRYING
BASKET ON A DRIER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[001] This invention relates to a drying basket and a fastening device for a drying basket on a drier.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[002] Drying baskets are used in driers with a rotary drum in order to dry sensitive items of clothing or shoes which must not be subjected to movement in the air flow of a drier. A drying basket is suspended for this purpose in the region of the door folding of the feed door of a drier, and therefore projects with its basket into the interior of the drum so that sensitive items or clothing or shoes can be dried on it, since the drying basket is not secured in the interior of the drier so that it also rotates. Furthermore, a method is known for removing the lint screen installed underneath the door in the front end plate and suspending the drying basket in the lower end plate in the opening thus formed. In most cases drying baskets are very expensive wire braids with special hook-shaped connecting elements welded onto them. A drying basket may also consist of a combination of a plastic basket with reinforcing and fastening elements.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[003] The object of this invention is to make available a drying basket for a drier, which basket is of simple construction and is easy to handle.

~~[004] This object is achieved by the features of Claim 1 and/or Claim 5.~~

[005]-[004] A drying basket for a drier has a longitudinal support and a lattice-shaped basket fastened to it. Because a connecting device is formed integrally on the longitudinal support and can be engaged with an opening provided on the drier, a simple construction of a drying basket is made available. Because the connecting device is formed integrally on the

longitudinal support, the flow of force and the introduction of force into the connecting device is optimised, in which case the structural design is simple and consists of few parts.

~~{006}~~ [005] In an advantageous embodiment, the longitudinal support is designed as a wire and the connecting device is designed as a hook. In ~~his~~this case the hook is formed on an end section of the wire, preferably by means of a bending process. This type of design of a hook at the end of a wire is particularly simple and appropriate.

~~{007}~~ [006] In an advantageous embodiment, the connecting device has a support section on the longitudinal support, with which section the connecting device is supported on the housing section of the drier. Consequently a simple connecting device is made available in that the drying basket can first be engaged with the hook in the opening on the drier, and is then lowered and is additionally supported with the support section on a housing section of the drier. A drying basket that is easy to handle is therefore made available.

~~{008}~~ [007] In a preferred embodiment, a longitudinal support is arranged on both longitudinal sides of the drying basket, which supports can be engaged with an opening ~~provide~~ provided on the drier. Here the connecting device is designed as a hook on an end section of the longitudinal support. This provides extremely simple handling when the drying basket is inserted in and removed from the drier.

~~{009}~~ [008] Since a fastening device for a drying basket is provided on a drier with a housing by providing an opening on one section of the housing of the drier, with which opening a connecting device of a drying basket can be engaged, a simple, reliable connection, that does not damage any components of the drier, can be achieved between the drying basket and the drier. It is not necessary to secure the basket in a door folding or on a door seal or the like, so that the components of the drier are not damaged.

~~{010}~~ [009] In a preferred embodiment, the housing of the drier has a front end plate, wherein ~~the~~ openings are arranged in the front end plate. This arrangement is therefore advantageous because the region of the air inlet grid or the air outlet grid in the drier is normally also located

on the front end plate, so that the objects to be dried on the drying basket occupy the optimum position in the air flow.

{011}[010] In a preferred embodiment, a replaceable lint filter is provided in the housing, wherein the opening is arranged adjacent to the lint ~~filter~~ filter.

{012}[011] In a preferred embodiment, the opening is covered by the inserted lint filter both when the drying basket is fitted and when it is not. This means that the user must previously remove the lint filter automatically during initial commissioning when he wants to remove the drying basket. It is therefore pointed out to the user that a lint filter is provided which must also be cleaned at regular intervals. Incorrect use of the drier is therefore avoided, resulting in a reduction in customer service operations.

{013}[012] In a preferred embodiment, the lint screen is arranged in the lower section of the front end plate and an opening is arranged on each side of the lint filter.

{014}[013] Further details, features and advantages of the invention are evident from the following description of a preferred exemplary embodiment of a drying basket according to the invention for a drier, and of a fastening device for a drying basket on a drier with reference to the drawings.

{015}~~In them:~~

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

{016}[014] Figure 1 shows a partial ~~sectional-inclined~~ perspective view through the feed opening into the interior of a drier with a drying basket fitted;

{017}[015] Figure 2 shows ~~en an~~ an enlarged detail view ~~A according to~~ taken along arrow A in Figure 1;

{018}[016] Figure 3 shows a drying basket for installation in the drier;

~~{019}~~~~[017]~~ Figure 4 shows a detail view ~~B according to~~ taken along arrow B in Figure 1 on the lower section of the end plate, with the lint filter and drying basket removed;

~~{020}~~~~[018]~~ Figure 5 shows ~~an inclined view B according to~~ a detail view taken along arrow B in Figure 1 on the lower section of the end plate, with the drying basket and lint filter installed; and

~~{021}~~~~[019]~~ Figure 6 shows a lint filter in the disassembled condition.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

~~{022}~~~~[020]~~ Figure 1 shows a ~~partial sectional inclined~~ partial perspective view into the interior of a drier. The drier has a feed opening 1, a front end plate 2 adjacent to feed opening 1 on the inside of feed opening 1, a rotary drum 3, a drying basket 4, which can be suspended in two openings 5 and 6, which are arranged in the lower section of end plate 2. Drum 3 has a rear wall 7 which is provided with a multiplicity of inlet openings 8 through which hot process air is able to enter drum 3 (arrow 9). On the lower section of front end plate 2 is arranged an outlet grid 10 with a multiplicity of outlet openings 11 through which the process air escapes again from drum 3 (arrow 9). On the lower section of feed opening 1, which is formed in end plate 2, is formed a recess 12 (see also Figure 4) into which a lint screen 13 according to Figure 6 can be inserted so that it comes to rest behind outlet grid 10 or downstream from outlet grid 10 transverse to the direction of flow 9. End plate 2 forms part of a housing 26 of the drier.

~~{023}~~~~[021]~~ According to Figure 4 an opening 5 and 6 is arranged in end plate 2 on both sides of recess 12.

~~{024}~~~~[022]~~ Figure 3 shows drying basket 4 in greater detail. The drying basket has ~~[[a]]~~ longitudinal ~~support~~ supports 14 and 15 manufactured from a thick wire on both longitudinal sides. A grid-shaped basket 16, which is bent upwards on the side, is arranged on both longitudinal supports 14 and 15. Grid-shaped basket 16 is manufactured from a thin wire. A longitudinal support 14 or 15 has a long, straight support section 17 and, in the front section, a connecting device 18 which is formed integrally on longitudinal support 14 and 15

respectively by means of a bending process. Connecting device 18 has, on the front end, a hook 19 which is formed as a bending section 20, itself formed at the bottom and pointing obliquely forward. A horizontal section 21 is connected to the bending section 20, to which section 21 section 22, bent obliquely downwards, is in turn connected. A section 23, bent upwards, is in turn connected to section 22, which section 23 passes into support section 17.

~~{025}~~[023] Lint filter 13 has an upper diaphragm 24, which, when lint filter is fitted, covers recess 12. The upper diaphragm 24 has a projection 25 on each side, which projection covers openings 5 and 6 in front end plate 2 when lint filter 13 is fitted. Openings 5 and 6 in front end plate 2 are in this case covered by projections 25 of upper diaphragm 24 of lint filter 13 when drying basket 4 is fitted and also when drying basket 4 is not fitted.

~~{026}~~[024] For installation of drying basket 4 lint filter 13 is first removed so that openings 5 and 6 become accessible, as shown in Figure 4. Drying basket 4 is then inserted in opening 5 and 6 with hook 19 and section 20 pointing obliquely forward, respectively, until drying basket 4, with its horizontal section 21 and its downwardly bent section 20, comes to rest at the corresponding points of end plate 2. Lint filter 13 is now fitted again so that diaphragm 24 of lint filter 13 covers recess 12 and, ~~with the~~ lateral projections 25 cover the ~~[[,]]~~ openings 5 and 6 in end plate 2 (see Figures 2 and 5). Drying basket 4 is dismantled in reverse order.